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**William Millerick, president
New Britain Chamber of Commerce
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I write in support of Raised Bill 1024, An Act Modernizing the State's Telecommunications Laws.

Gone are the days of the rotary dial phone. We've moved away from the clunky car phone. The cell phone, as we once knew it, has even become a thing of the past. We are ushering in a new a new era of mobile technologies that are re-shaping the way we work, live and play.

You've heard from a number of people today on the benefits of broadband to business. There is no denying the workplace is different than it was five or even 10 years ago – in fact, many people never "disconnect." The blackberry, the iPhone and the Droid are to work what the Internet was to the 24-hour news cycle.

American consumers are experiencing technologies differently than they ever have before, yet Connecticut's telecommunications laws don't acknowledge any of these changes.

Our laws need to be updated to incentivize private sector investment in broadband infrastructure. This will increase consumer's access to new technologies, while reducing cost.

We need to be smart about technology policies and recognize the best form of consumer protection is consumer choice. We also need to recognize that technology and the way we use it has changed.

Americans are cutting the cord. More than one in every four households has only wireless telephones. Nearly one in every six homes receives all or almost all calls on a wireless phone, despite having a landline. People are truly going mobile, more so than ever before.

Investment in 3G and 4G infrastructure is critical to consumers in Connecticut as people become more and more reliant on mobile broadband for work and communication. People are sending e-mails, checking their account balance and ordering movie tickets all from their handheld device.

That's no surprise when you consider the fact that 91% of Americans use a cell phone. In 2010 alone, five billion mobile applications were downloaded to mobile phones each day, there were 200 million Facebook mobile users and mobile usage on Twitter increased 367%. In 2010, e-commerce reached \$22.9 billion, up 9% from 2009.

This is not a trend – it's a way of life in Connecticut and across the country. In fact, Fortune reports that in 2011, smartphones are likely to surpass traditional computers as the way most of the world accesses the Internet.

Our state's telecom laws desperately need an update. I encourage you to pass Raised 1024. If Connecticut wants to keep up, we must create policies that encourage investment in broadband and wireless technologies consumers demand.

Will F. More
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